



David H. Nordick
Chairman of the Board
Chief Executive Officer

May 16, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE

The Honorable Bill Thomas
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

You may not be aware of the fact that a major portion of Dole Food Company's income is earned outside the United States. Existing tax laws makes it very costly to bring that money home. I am writing to pledge my support for the legislation you have introduced to reform the international tax provisions of U.S. tax law and make other tax changes that promote U.S. jobs and competitiveness. Dole Food Company supports your initiatives and agrees that the fundamental inequities facing U.S. taxpayers that undermine the competitiveness of U.S. companies, like Dole, must be addressed.

Of specific interest to Dole Food Company is legislation encouraging repatriation of foreign earnings. For example, the provision included in Senate Amendment No. 622 to S. 1054, which was passed by the Senate yesterday, and would impose a 5.25% toll tax on excess qualified foreign distributions, is exactly the type of legislation that would help strengthen the U.S. economy and preserve jobs here in the U.S. If this type of legislation were passed, Dole would repatriate a significant amount of its offshore earnings, and put that money to work here in the U.S.

I understand that you may be considering introduction of a similar earnings repatriation proposal in the House, and I want you to know that Dole will offer its complete assistance and support in your efforts to have this type of legislation enacted.

Enactment of this legislation will have a positive impact on the domestic economy. As you know, economic studies have demonstrated the important role that U.S. multinational corporations play in building our economy and creating and preserving American jobs. This provision will help level the international playing field, enhance the ability of U.S. companies to compete in global markets, and strengthen our domestic economy.

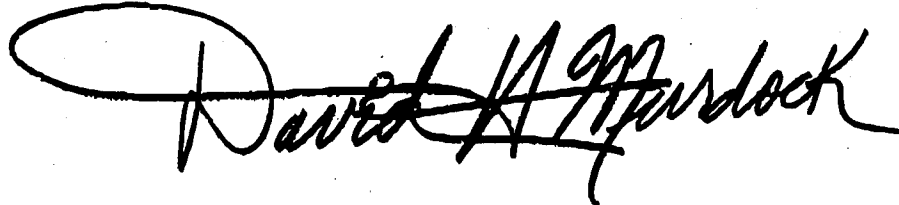
10900 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90024
Tel: (310) 824-1023
Fax: (310) 824-7756

Dole World Headquarters
One Dole Drive
Westlake Village, CA 91362
Tel: (818) 879-6600
Fax: (818) 879-6807

100 Kahaolu Avenue
Milliani, HI 96789
Tel: (808) 548-4811
Fax: (808) 548-2980

On behalf of Dole Food Company and our more than 65,000 employees, thank you for your leadership, and we offer our support and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David A. Murdock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D" and a stylized "A".

DHM/ak

cc: The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
The Honorable Tom DeLay
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable Andrew H. Card, Jr.